FGDC Annual Report to OMB
Format for Agency Reports – FY 2004

The following outline should be used by FGDC Member Agencies (or Bureaus) for their Annual Spatial Data Reports, which will be consolidated by the FGDC and submitted to OMB. Reports **should be brief, using bullets where possible**. Please provide only the information that will be useful for OMB to assess the agencies' achievements and for establishing future direction.

Part A
GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

1. Agency or Bureau: Farm Service Agency

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5. Subcommittee or Working Group Participation (Subcommittees or Working Groups your agency is involved with, but does not lead).

   We have representatives in the following sub-committees:

   FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee
   http://www.nationalcad.org/membership.asp
   FGDC Base Cartographic Subcommittee
   http://www.fgdc.gov/sbcd/repre.html

6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

   Yes. In 2001, FSA prepared a GIS Implementation Blueprint and updated that in the 2003-2004 Acceleration Plan that laid out GIS Implementation for the agency. These documents coordinate imagery and other program related data acquisition, the reengineering of program business processes, and supporting application development. Both were developed in conjunction with the USDA Service Center Agencies GIS Strategic plan to support standards implementation and limit redundant activities in the GIS arena. In addition, in 2004 FSA began a major modernization project called MIDAS (Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agriculture Systems). This effort will carry out integration of tabular agricultural data (land ownership, historical crop data, conservation practices, etc.) with geographic spatial data in web-based in e-Government enabled GIS.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? How is your agency involved in Framework Standards development and adoption? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

   FSA provides FGDC compliant metadata for all nationally sanctioned geographic data created by the agency. All digital imagery meets National Map Accuracy Standards. FGDC compliant metadata for new digital ortho imagery is managed in the USDA Geodata Warehouse and is delivered with ortho imagery orders. Ortho imagery metadata managed in the USDA Geospatial Data Warehouse will be available to GOS via a metadata service. FSA is currently using the content standard for geospatial metadata and will adopt framework data content standards under development by the GOS project when they are finalized. FSA, in a joint effort with other USDA Service Center Agencies, has developed geodata management standards specific to internal business needs.

8. Performance Measures: Does your agency have performance measures for spatial data activities? If so, please list the measures and target and describe how they contribute to development of the NSDI.

   FSA recently joined with USGS to establish joint performance measures in their imagery acquisition activities. They are:

   Outcome measure.
   Outcome goal: Geographic Information System users at National, State, and local levels, such as program managers, land and resource planners, conservationists, and economists will have timely access to current orthoimagery to collect, maintain, and utilize crop and land use information, accurately document disaster events, support policy and program implementation and compliance decisions, and maintain cartographic base mapping programs.

   Intermediate outcome goal: FSA and USGS to acquire 1-meter NAIP orthoimagery over 11 Western States in a 5-year cycle in partnership with Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private partners, and provide access to mission stakeholders through Geospatial One-Stop.

   <u>Performance measure for FSA and USGS:</u>
   % of 11 Western States for which orthoimagery have been acquired in partnership with FSA and other entities to achieve a 5-year cycle for 1-meter NAIP imagery.

2006	36%
2007	20%
2008	0%
2009	14%
2010	30%

Cost avoidance measure.
Goal: Partner with all interested stakeholders for a single 1-meter orthoimagery acquisition over 11 Western States in a 5-year cycle in order to eliminate redundancy of imagery acquisition, promote efficiency by encouraging longer flight lines in acquiring the imagery, reduce overhead and administrative costs, thereby reducing the total cost to each partner and resulting in a cost savings to the government.

Performance measure for FSA and USGS:
% of total cost FSA and USGS saved through partnering with other entities for imagery acquisition of 1-meter NAIP orthoimagery.

2006	40%
2007	36%
2008	0%
2009	31%
2010	44%

9. Reducing Redundancy of Planned Acquisitions Do you use the Geospatial One-Stop portal, geodata.gov, to ensure that the data are not already available?

FSA has managed farm field boundaries in a manual mapping environment for decades. FSA has also flown aerial photography for compliance purposes since the 1970's. This data has been an authoritative source for local governments in rural areas. FSA has replaced this data with digital geospatial data in efforts like Common Land Unit Digitizing Initiative and the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), and both are being found to be a significant asset to local governments and other users, particularly in rural areas.

FSA works in cooperation and partnership with national, multi-agency coordination groups including the National Aerial Photography Program (NAPP) and the National Digital Ortho Photography (NDOP) program. The FSA led National Agriculture Imagery Program has developed into a very successful coordination effort at the National and State level. In 2004, 10 Federal, State and local agencies partnered with FSA in NAIP to purchase 1 meter replacement imagery.

FSA has also worked with other entities, such as the Department of Interior to share farm-field boundary information in a geospatial format. Within USDA, FSA currently shares geospatial data with the National Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, and has established a data-sharing projects with the Risk Management Agency and the National Agriculture Statistics Service.

10. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for following and using NSDI standards?

Yes. FSA contract specifications for geodata acquisition include requirements for information that will be used for FGDC compliant metadata.

11. Clearinghouse for Existing Data: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

    FSA has posted theme metadata on Geodata.gov and is planning to make the metadata harvestable by GOS via a metadata service. Barriers have included a lack of resources that can be dedicated to the task.

    FSA geospatial data is currently available via the USDA Geospatial Data Gateway. The Gateway is one of the data access points for agriculture data at the Gedoata.gov portal.

12. Clearinghouse for Planned Investments: Is your agency posting information on planned investments in geospatial information to the Geospatial One-Stop portal to encourage partnerships and leverage investments in the acquisition of geospatial data? If not, please cite when you will begin doing so and what barriers you have encountered that would prevent posting this information.

    FSA has posted planned investment information on Geodata.gov Marketplace. In addition, FSA has also posted this information on the NDOP web site, which in turn, links to/from the GOS site.

13. Geodata.gov: If metadata for your agency's geospatial data/information holdings is on a Clearinghouse Node already, has that Node been registered on geodata.gov for scheduled harvesting visits? If not, when is the Node scheduled to begin regular visits by the geodata.gov harvester?

    FSA expects to have a metadata service harvestable by GOS available in September 2005.

14. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

    FSA must have critical geodata infrastructure in place to be able to fully integrate GIS into mission activities. Key program components of this data infrastructure are digitized farm and field boundaries (called Common Land Units) and mosiaicked digital ortho photography (MDOQ) that create seamless county views across the nation. FSA has an in-house and outsourcing effort in place to digitize the CLU and expects that the lower 48 states and HI will be completed in FY 2005. Base imagery for Alaska and Puerto Rico will be delivered in FY2005 and the digitizing effort in these areas will begin shortly thereafter. Updated base imagery (MDOQ) is critical for program implementation and is part of the NAIP acquisition strategy, which in turn, is contingent on sufficient funding.

FSA offices integrate mission activities with GIS as core data is acquired for them and use the geodata to provide better service to our customers. Some examples of services FSA will provide when critical geodata is fully available across the country and integrated in program delivery:

- Ability, when used in conjunction with FSA's vast amount of land and customer information, to effectively administer farm and farm loan programs, as well effectively respond to natural disaster, animal or plant disease outbreaks, and bio-terrorism events. This allows FSA to more effectively pass this information to other agencies such as FEMA, APHIS, and state and local emergency management officials.

- Ability, in the incident of a weather related disaster event, to accurately identify, map with GPS units, and import the information GIS for graphical display and analysis. When the data is geo-referenced, it allows those agencies to respond in real-time because they can spatially integrate, relate and analyze date from variety of sources. This improves decision-making and expands program tracking and analysis at all levels - local, state and national.

- Provide standardized accurate measurements of fields from a digital orthophotography base and digital compliance aerial photography for determining acreage for contracts, verification of land eligibility, acreage reports, and compliance work.

- Implements a streamlined compliance process that provides for consistency between USDA Service Centers, reduces errors, and makes available permanent digital records of compliance activities.

- Ability to create high quality, accurate, customized maps for customers on demand, instead of distributing outdated, poor quality photocopies. Ability to maintain and share farm records maps digitally, eliminating printing, distribution and storage of hard copy maps. Better graphical display of information leads to improved decisions by land users and managers.

- Provides improved coordination and data sharing between Federal, State, and local agencies. Provides ability to create and share data with farmers and private industry that use advanced technology in their farm operations.

15. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop (Funding Partner, Channel Stewardship, geospatial framework data interoperability pilots, posting standards based Web Mapping services to the portal, etc)?

    FSA participates as a funding partner in the USDA-Agencies contribution. USDA also provides a channel steward.

16. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

    Yes. A major element of FSA's business and that of its partner Service Center Agencies is the measurement and accounting of agricultural commodities and land. To accomplish this mission, mapping has been a key component of USDA field office operations since at least the 1930's. A crucial feature of the emerging enterprise architecture is the integration of geospatial and tabular data streams to improve operational efficiency and customer service.

17. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development? Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities. Does your agency have any formal agreements or MOU's concerning data sharing and integration?

    FSA participates in and was one of the founding members of the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Ortho-Photography Program. Both programs provide for partnerships at the state level and with other federal agencies for imagery acquisition. In 2003, FSA worked with other local, State and Federal partners to establish a compliance/ ortho imagery replacement program called the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). This successful program is ongoing and partnership involvement has increased each year.

    As one of the USDA Service Center Agencies, FSA works with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Rural Development Agencies to identify, acquire, share and create development and use standards for geospatial data. This partnership continues at the local level with Service Center cooperators such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts. FSA is also in the process of establishing MOUs with several other Federal agencies to share crop and land data.

18. Concerns or Lessons Learned: Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention, or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

    - Without sufficient funding, Agencies cannot implement GIS into mission activities in a timely or effective manner. Lack of funding limits our ability to improve services and fully integrate E-Gov capabilities into day-to-day operations.

    - Funding for GIS initiatives has been inconsistent, and when funded, resources are generally limited. Without consistent funding, it is extremely difficult for Federal agencies to collaborate with state and local entities in a timely manner and capitalize pooled resources for data acquisition.